State Govts. The Working Group for Major & Medium Irrigation for the Tenth Plan has assessed the liability of ongoing projects in the Tenth Plan as Rs. 77100 crores.

(b) According to the Report of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development which was chaired by Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, the total water use in 1997-98 was 629 billion cubic metres (BCM), out of which the use for irrigation was about 524 BCM (83%). It has been assessed that by 2025 the total demand for water will increase to 843 BCM of which about 72% will be the demand for irrigation.

(c) and (d) As per the revised National Water Policy adopted in April 2002, the water allocation priorities should broadly be as follows: drinking water, irrigation, hydropower, ecology, agro industries and non-agricultural industries, navigation and other uses. In the further planning for water resources development, these priorities will be kept in view.

Cut in Plan Expenditure by States

996. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has warned that any cut in plan expenditure by the States would seriously affect the process of poverty eradication;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has suggested that icreased agricultural productivity be made a focal point of the country's development strategy;

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions made by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In an internal research exercise, it has been found that reduction in poverty ratio is positively

correlated with level of per capita State Plan Expenditure as well as with agricultural Productivity.

(c) and (d) The findings of the research study are being considered by the Planning Commission.

Corruption in the country

997. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption is endemic to Indian Society and manifests itself in poor governance; and

(b) the solutions proposed to the problem and improve quality of life of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The issue of governance including that of corruption has been dealt with in National Human Development Report (NHDR)—2001, prepared by Planning Commission and released by the Prime Minister recently on April 23rd, 2002. The Report points out that the institutional arrangements wherein public officials have monopoly power plus discretion in the absence of accountability and relatively low salaries have resulted in corruption in most developing societies. The problem is compounded by procedural and legal hurdles that an individual has to confront in almost every interface with the public authorities.

The Report suggests that the solution to the problem of corruption has to be more systemic than any other issue of governance. Merely shrinking the economic role of the State by resorting to deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation is not necessarily the solution to addressing the problem. Prevalent institutional arrangements have to be reviewed and changes made where those vested with power are also made accountable, their functioning made more transparent and subjected to social audit, with a view to minimise the discretionary decisions. All such procedures, laws and regulations that breed corruption and come in the way of efficient delivery system will have to be eliminated. The perverse system of incentives in public life, which makes corruption a high-return-low-risk activity, need to be addressed. In this context, public